

# Summary of 2003/2004 PDC Law and Rule Changes

**Electronic Filing.** All candidates and political committees, including ballot measure committees, who expended \$10,000 or more last year, or expect to spend \$10,000 or more during this year, are required to submit campaign finance reports electronically. [RCW 42.17.3691]

The Commission may make exceptions, on a case-by-case basis only for **CANDIDATES** whose authorized committees lack the technological ability to file reports using the electronic alternative provided by the Commission.

Candidates and committees that file electronically with the PDC do not need to file copies with their county auditor.

**Contribution Limits.** The Commission made inflationary adjustments for 2004 contribution limits. Current limits are as follows:

Source of Contribution	To State Executive Candidates	To Legislative Candidates
Individual	\$1,350 per election	\$675 per election
Union or Business	1,350 per election	675 per election
Political Action Committee	1,350 per election	675 per election
State Party Central Committee	.68/voter	.68/voter
County Party Central Committee	.34/voter	.34/voter
Legislative District Committee	.34/voter	.34/voter
Minor Party Committee	.68/voter	.68/voter
Caucus Political Committee	.68/voter	.68/voter

## **Out of State PACs**

House Bill 1294, approved by the legislature last session, became effective on July 27, 2003. This measure made a number of changes in the reporting requirements of out-of-state and federal political committees. The measure made the following changes:

- Exempts from C-5 reporting those committees that file campaign reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).
- Restricts application to political committees whose primary purpose is to influence elections in other states, but who may make contributions to or expenditures regarding Washington candidates, ballot measures or political committees.
- Eliminates the forfeiture remedy.
- Changes the due date of the C-5 report from “within 10 days” of a contribution being received to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month in which the contribution or expenditure is made.